Dear Neighbour,

Following up on last letter from September 2017, we have completed our review of changes to our upgrade plan for Mainwaring Substation, located near Knight Street and 49th Avenue. To continue to provide reliable electricity supply to over 60,000 homes and businesses in East Vancouver, we must upgrade the Mainwaring substation’s aging equipment. The modified project scope are:

- Replacing two transformers as previously notified at its current position.
- Replace an aging feeder section – the lattice structure within the substation
- Previously notified move of the telecom tower in the southeast corner has been cancelled.

Currently we are assessing alternatives for replacing the feeder section. Alternative 1 is to upgrade the end-of-life feeder section to modern indoor version. This would involve constructing a building on the southwest corner of the substation to house the equipment that will have space to expand in the future for the other feeder section that will remain in service. Alternative 2 is to retain the existing feeder section location and refurbish it.
We are more likely to move forward with Alternative 1 that modernizes the substation because the existing equipment location poses construction safety risks and also ongoing operational safety concerns for our staff. Further, if we replace with identical equipment, the modernization upgrade will still be required in the future.

When will this happen and what can I expect?
This upgrade project is subject to regulatory oversight from BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) and in 2021, we will be going to our utility regulator with a detailed upgrade plan. We expect the construction to start in late 2021/early 2022 with site preparation work first and in the summer of 2022 the main construction work will begin. The expected in-service date is spring 2025.

Generally our work typically takes place between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., consistent with the City of Vancouver’s noise bylaws and any granted variances. We will provide additional construction information as it becomes available.

What is Mainwaring Substation?
Mainwaring Substation is a distribution substation built in the 1950s. It takes electricity at a higher voltage (230 kilovolts) and converts it to 12 kilovolts to supply power to homes and businesses in the area. Over 60,000 customers are currently being served by this substation. The current service area is west to Cambie Street, east to Boundary Road, and north to 12th Avenue.

How will this benefit you?
This upgrade will provide increased reliability to the electrical system and address near end-of-life equipment. This upgrade will also prepare for future growth by modifying substation layout for future upgrades that will increase the substation’s capacity to support homes, businesses, and industries. For more information about the work, visit our website at bchydro.com/mainwaring.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we complete this important project. If you have any questions, you can email me at projects@bchydro.com or call 604 623 4472.

Sincerely,

Johnson Lee
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor